

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims, as follows:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising [[VPAC1 receptor]] a vasoactive intestinal peptide/pituitary adenylate cyclase-activating peptide receptor 1 agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 2 (original): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising VPAC2 receptor agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 3 (original): A pharmaceutical composition for the treatment and/or prevention of septic shock, comprising PAC1 receptor agonist with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Claim 4 (original): A method for treating and/or preventing septic shock, comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a VPAC1 receptor agonist to a patient.

Claim 5 (original): A method for treating and/or preventing septic shock comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a VPAC2 receptor agonist to a patient.

Claim 6 (original): A method for treating and/or preventing septic shock comprising administering a therapeutically effective dose of a PAC1 receptor agonist to a patient.